

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
Hexham Urban District Council
FOR THE
Year ended 31st December, 1946,
BY
Dr. C. McCULLOCH.



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Council Offices.
Hexham House.
Hexham.

24th January. 1948.

Sir,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health. 1946.

With reference to my report, I have since observed that, due to a printer's error, the Table at the foot of page 9 will require amendment. I enclose an amended copy and shall be glad if the copies already forwarded to you can be amended accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(signed) A. H. CRAWFORD
Clerk of the Council.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London, S. W.1.

Particulars of amended table
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1946.				Total number of children (pre-School)	School Children
	Total number of Children Immunised during 1946	Pre- School Children	School Children	100	14
Diphtheria Immunisation	114	100	14	89%	86.1%
Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1946	87.0%	89.0%	86.1%		

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HEXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HEXHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Hexham :—*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

This report still does not take the usual form but is prepared on the lines of that for 1945 as indicated in Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health.

The water supply for the year was satisfactory and with the exception of two periods, was direct from springs to consumers. In May and July the incoming supply was reduced and water was drawn from the reservoir and delivered to the consumer after chlorination and slow sand filtration. Regular samples were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis throughout the year, and the reports show that the water is of excellent quality in both respects.

The birth rate is 16.6 per 1,000. This is a rise in keeping with the general trend in the country.

The death rate is 12.4 per 1,000, the average for the whole of the county being 11.98 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate is 18.5 per 1,000, which again is very pleasing, the average for the whole of the county being 48.0 per 1,000.

Infectious diseases show an increase over last year, viz., 135 cases against 58. This increase is accounted for by 93 cases of measles as against 8 in 1945.

There were 7 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, a decrease of 3 from 1945.

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified, and immunisation was kept to a high level, 89% for pre-school children and 86.1% for school children.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
C. McCULLOCH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sec. 4.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,926
Estimated Population, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	10,200

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

No large industries ; nothing affecting Public Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	TOTAL		M.		F.
Legitimate	159	...	74	...	85
Illegitimate	3	...	1	...	2

STILL BIRTHS.

	TOTAL		M.		F.
Legitimate	6	...	4	...	2
Illegitimate	1	...	1	...	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population	...	16.6
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	17.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Rate per 1,000.		
	Total Deaths.	(Live & Still) Births.	
No. 29. Puer. and post-abortion. sepsis	Nil.	...	Nil.
No. 30. Other maternal causes	...	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL	...	Nil.	Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	18.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				19.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...		Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			...	Nil.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population...				12.4

DEATHS.—Age Groups, also Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths.

AGE GROUPS :—

0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
1—2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
15—25	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
25—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
65—75	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Over 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

TOTALS ALL AGES	130
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

UNCERTIFIED : Male	...	...	...	...	3
Female	...	...	...	...	3
INFANT : Male	...	...	...	...	2
Female	...	...	...	...	1
ADULT : Male	...	...	...	...	60
Female	...	...	...	...	67
					130

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following Tables :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tub. of resp. system	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer of buc. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	...	6	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	17	21
Other dis. of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other resp. dis.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Apendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other digestive dis.	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Road Traffic Accident	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	5	9
						49	72
TOTAL						121	

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 2 in 1945. The Infant Mortality Rate is 18.5 per thousand births compared with 15.4 for 1945.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	19.1	0.53	11.5	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.15	4.4	43
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	22.2	0.67	12.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.13	6.1	46
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	21.3	0.59	11.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14	2.8	37
London Adm. County	21.5	0.54	12.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.12	4.2	41
Hexham U.D. ...	16.6	0.7	12.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18.5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	1	5	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	7	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	93	1	6	31	55	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	24	—	2	10	12	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	135	2	8	44	75	—	1	5	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1946 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	4	1	—	4	—	—	1

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward ...	3	1
Leazes Ward ...	2	1
Priestpottle Ward ...	2	3
Hencotes Ward ...	—	—
	7	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1946.

	Total number of Children Immunised during 1945	Pre-School Children	School Children
Diphtheria Immunisation	100	14	114
Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1946	—	89.0%	86.1%

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Factories, Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	...	55
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Farms, Dairies, Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	109
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Disinfestation of Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	851
Drainage, Choked	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ New Works	...	...	...	...	...	23
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	48
Houses Inspected (Including Public Health)	...	...	...	...	...	227
„ „ (Revisits)	...	...	...	...	...	82
„ Filthy	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Verminous and Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	17
House to House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	77
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	17
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	72
Shops, Foodstores	...	...	...	...	...	72
Markets and Marts	...	...	...	...	...	46
Infectious Diseases Visits and Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	21
Other Public Health Visits and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	103
TOTAL						1,908

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1946.

	Hexham Urban District. Inspector—H. MITCHELL.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished ...	4	...	...	4
	" repaired ...	...	...	...	...
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	" " roofed or repaired ...	...	...	...	...
	Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	Water closets provided ...	9	1	...	10
	" " repaired ...	28	15	...	43
	Sanitary bins provided ...	...	27	...	27
	" " renewed ...	5	...	...	5
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	23	...	...	23
	Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	11	11	...	22
	Additional gullies provided ...	30	...	...	30
	Old gullies replaced... ...	16	...	...	16
	Scullery sinks provided ...	9	...	...	9
	" waste pipes repaired ...	3	...	...	3
	" " trapped ...	9	...	...	9
	Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	...	1	...	1
Water supply	Sources closed or discontinued, — No. of houses affected, —				
	New service provided ...	8	"	"	8

FOOD INSPECTION, 1946.

UNSOUND FOOD.				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
				Sts. Lbs.		
Beef (home-killed) ...	...	...	...	5,149 10	—	—
" (Imported) ...	...	...	...	12 13	—	—
Mutton (home-killed) ...	...	...	...	254 9	—	—
" (Imported) ...	...	...	...	— —	—	—
Pork ...	...	...	...	62 8	—	—
Bacon ...	...	...	...	8 7	—	—
Fruit (dried) ...	...	...	...	4 0	—	—
Other Foods ...	...	...	...	554 4	—	—
Canned Goods ...	...	...	...	176 6	—	—
Green Groceries ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total ...	...	...	...	6,223 1		

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT ABATTOIR.

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1,810	223	7,414	58	9,505

SUMMARY OF CONDEMNED BUTCHER MEAT.

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows	18,461	9,668	28,129
Other Animals...	22,622	25,967	48,589
TOTAL	41,083	35,635	76,718

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

INSPECTIONS (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	80	43	12	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) to which Section 7 applies—				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	3	12	2	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	83	55	14	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecuted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	3	3	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Homework)	5	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	16	—	—	—

D.—HOUSING

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	—	1	1
<hr/>			
1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :			
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)			227
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation ...			Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...			59
2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers			48
3.—Action under Statutory Powers :			
(A) <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring repairs ...			Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—			
(a) By owners	—		Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—		Nil
(B) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>			
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied			1
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	—		1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...			Nil
(C) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			Nil
(D) <i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:</i>			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made			Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit			Nil
4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above			
			Nil

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	...	26
Approximate number of cows kept	... ..	510

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER,
1936 and 1946.

Supplementary Licences Granted (Pasteurised Milk) ...	3
---	---

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Renewals of Licence to Slaughter	... ..	8
New Licences Granted	... ..	3

DISINFECTION.

Premises after cases of Scarlet Fever	... ..	10
„ „ „ „ Tuberculosis	... ..	2
„ „ „ „ Diphtheria	... ..	2
„ „ „ „ Erysipelas	... ..	2
„ „ „ „ Carcinoma	... ..	1
„ „ „ „ Angina Pectoris	... ..	1
School Rooms and Outbuildings	... ..	5
Mattresses	... ..	2
Pillows	... ..	4
Bedding Destroyed (Lots)	... ..	1

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Administered by the Urban District Council of Hexham (with their consent) under delegated powers by resolution of the County Council of Northumberland.

Number of Visits	... ..	851
Number of Rats Killed	... ..	5,091
Number of Mice Killed	... ..	345
TOTAL	... ..	<u>5,436</u>

